

Appl. No. 10/730,410

Amdt. Dated March 28, 2005

Reply to Office Action of January 21, 2005

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office action mailed January 21, 2005. Reexamination and reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-4 and 6-20 are now pending in this application, with Claims 1, 10 and 16 being the independent claims. Claim 1 has been amended and Claim 5 has been canceled herein. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Before proceeding with the merits of the Office action, Applicants would like to thank Examiner Noori for indicating that Claims 2-6, 8, and 9 are directed to allowable subject matter, and that Claims 10-20 are allowed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. (4,908,576). In view of the amendment to independent Claim 1, which now recites the feature of originally-filed dependent Claim 6, this rejection is moot. As such, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Based on the above, Claims 1-4 and 6-20 are patentable over the citations of record. Hence, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

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If for some reason Applicant has not paid a sufficient fee for this response, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

INGRASSIA FISHER & LORENZ

Dated: 3/28/05

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